

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D:	TU2024KE002							
Name of Service	Little Harvard Childcare Ltd							
Address of Service:	The Park, Belin Woods, Newbridge, Co Kildare, W12 FR63							
Email Address:	adminnewbridge@littleharvard.ie							
Name of Registered Provider:	James Hargrave							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	P	Part-Time	P	Sessional	P		
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary			
Proposed change:	The service proposes to change in number of children that can be accommodated from 120 to 158.							
Proposed Number of Children:	158							
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Following the inspection a total number of 154 children can be accommodated.							
Registered change:	Change in number of children from 120 to 154 children.							
Date of Inspection:	3	0	0	6	2	0	2	6
Inspection undertaken by:	F Carty							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road Naas, Co Kildare							

Rationale for Inspection:

Proposed Change of Circumstance

The registered provider wishes to increase the numbers of children attending from 120 to 158 children in the service. The children will be accommodated in an additional room namely, Preschool 4.

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 154 Children
Date of Registration	27 July 2026



Child and Family Agency Act 2013
Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016

Version 05
Implemented- Aug 2022
EYI-IR12.23 F07 FFP (CIC)

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Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	Little Harvard Childcare is an existing service offering full daycare, part time and sessional care for children aged 1 – 6 years. The service is located in Newbridge, Co Kildare. The registered provider is seeking to increase the numbers of children attending the service from 120 to 158 children daily and to add a morning session increasing the number of staff by 2 adults. There is parking for cars located to the side of the building. The registered provider has the sole use of the building.
Premises	The premises are located in a purpose-built premises and includes 9 care rooms including the proposed new Preschool 4 room. There is suitable sanitary accommodation for children and adults. There is a sleep room available. There are three outdoor play areas. The outdoor areas are secure with fencing. The proposed additional children will be accommodated in Preschool 4 room on a sessional basis.
Staffing	The proposed new care room will be staffed by two additional adults. The registered provider does not work directly in the service. The following condition applied - Fire Safety Certificate 30124730 – condition 8 not more than 20 children (who are not sleeping) shall be accommodated at first floor level of the creche.
Methodology	The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises. The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to

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	registering the change in circumstance. The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity; completeness; and compliance with administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector(s) wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.

Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. (1)(a) The requirement has been met. There is a designated person in charge and an adult currently working in the existing service will be able to deputise as required.
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Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. (1) An adequate number of adults will work directly in the pre-school service.
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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

- (1) *Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—*
- (a) *having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*
 - (b) *there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.*
- (2) *A registered provider—*
- (b) *of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) (a)

The proposed Grasshoppers 2 room will be for the sole use of the preschool children during the morning session. It was equipped with toys and play equipment on open low-level shelving in areas of interest which included a home area, cosy area, construction and small world play. Low level tables and chairs were provided in the playroom for pre-school children to engage in tabletop activities.

(b) The care room had a rest area available. A sofa and cushions were available for preschool children to rest and opt out of activities as required.

(2) An outdoor play area which was accessible directly from the care room was safely and securely fenced off. Available toys included a climbing frame with slide, ride on toys, a basketball net, a separate area with a synthetic surfacing and football nets was also available. The main area had tarmac surfacing. Both areas were surrounded by perimeter fencing which prevented unauthorised access and egress.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The parents will provide a morning snack to the children. There was a chef employed on site and a 4-week rolling menu in place. The service had a Healthy Eating Policy in place.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The door at the entrance to the care room was secure to ensure the safety of the children within and against unauthorised access and to prevent unsupervised exit of pre-school children from the service. A number of gates were also secure with latches to prevent children from exiting and unauthorised access to the service. The main entrance was secure with a magnetic and key coded lock. Children will be accepted into the service from the entrance door and will be taken to the playroom by staff members during operational hours of the service.

All toys and furniture were in good condition and free from pinch and crush points and sharp edges. The registered provider has sole use of both the building and the outdoor play area for the preschool service. There was built in storage facilities available for storage throughout the service.

Cleaning schedules were in place, and the service was in a clean condition throughout.

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 – First Aid

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children—
- (a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and
 - (b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) There was evidence that a number of staff had current certification in First Aid Responder. Evidence was provided to the inspector on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was provided. There was signage to indicate the location of first aid box. The first aid box was available to the children always attending the service.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) A recording system was provided to maintain a record of monthly fire drills as conducted in the service.

(b) The maintenance record for firefighting equipment was available they were last serviced on the 13 January 2026. A maintenance record for smoke alarms confirmed that a maintenance service was conducted on the 18 August 2025.

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(4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was posted in the communal hallway. A fire assembly point was located to the rear of the property. An additional assembly point was available to the front of the property.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The service had insurance cover for a maximum of 158 children in daily attendance on a full daycare basis. Insurance for the service expires on the 27th March 2027.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(a) There was no evidence of dampness or mould growth on internal walls and ceilings. Windows in the care rooms appear to be both water-tight and weather-tight and were both positioned and opened above child height. The person in charge confirmed that there are no structural defects with the premises.

(b) The heavy-duty floor covering throughout the rooms was well fitted and in a good state of repair and maintenance. The front exit to the building guarded against both unsupervised exit of children and unauthorised access to the building. The building was not used for any other purpose unrelated to childcare during operational hours of the service.

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- (c) The openable windows in the care room which were located above child height ensured both adequate natural day lighting and ventilation in the care rooms. All ceiling light fittings in rooms were covered with shatterproof diffusers. Heating was provided with an underfloor heating system. The temperature recorded in the care rooms was between the recommended 18° Celsius and 22° Celsius.
- (d) All walls and ceilings were finished with a washable paint and were smooth surfaced for easy cleaning purposes.
- (e) There were two toilets and wash hand basins located inside the care room for the pre-school children in daily attendance. The water supply to wash hand basins was thermostatically controlled. Mechanical ventilation was available in the sanitary facilities. Additional toilets were available for staff and children throughout the service.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

Room 1	Preschool 3	Clear floor space	43.3 sqm
Room 2	Preschool 2	Clear floor space	42.1 sqm
Room 3	Preschool 1	Clear floor space	42.6 sqm
Room 4	Wobbler 1	Clear floor space	33.6 sqm

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Room 5	Toddler 3	Clear floor space	36.7 sqm
Room 6	Toddler 2	Clear floor space	27 sqm
Room 7	Toddler 1	Clear floor space	27.4 sqm
Room 9	ECCE/SAC	Clear floor space	41.1 sqm
Room 10	Preschool 4	Clear floor space	39.5 sqm

(2) The area of the care rooms in the service ensured adequate floor space for a maximum number of 154 pre-school children in daily attendance on a full day care, part time or sessional basis.